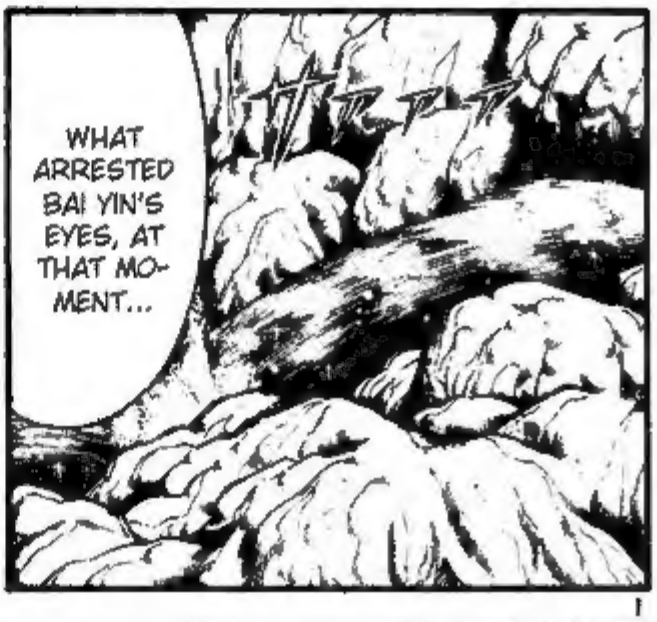
AS HE GAZED UPON FRANCINE'S RADIANT FORM...


WHAT ARRESTED BAI YIN'S EYES, AT THAT MOMENT...

Act 8
Angel

WAS THE VIVID BRAND ON HER SHOULDER.

IN THOSE DAYS...
THAT WAS THE UNMIS-TAKABLE MARK...
OF A THIEF'S CRIME.

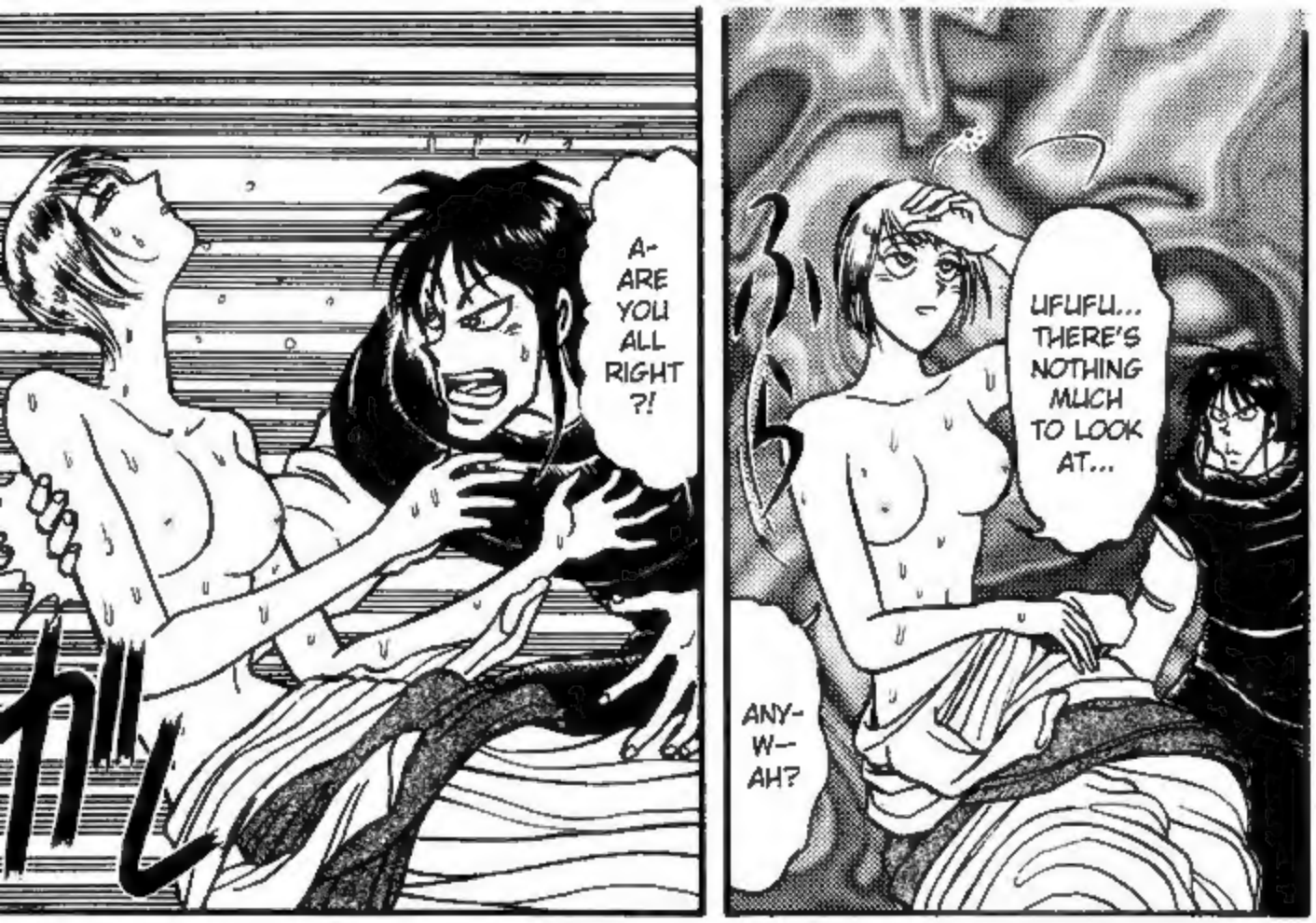
HE WAS UTTERLY BEWILD-ERED.

AS HE STOOD IN THE SLUMS OF PRAGUE, 200 YEARS AGO...

2

I-I DIDN'T MEAN TO LOOK...!
AH... MASTER YIN?

SHE LAUGHS ALL THE TIME, SHE SUPPORTS THOSE KIDS... AND SHE'S A THIEF?!
WHAT IS THIS WOMAN ?!


A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
UFUFU... THERE'S NOTHING MUCH TO LOOK AT...
ANY-W—AH?

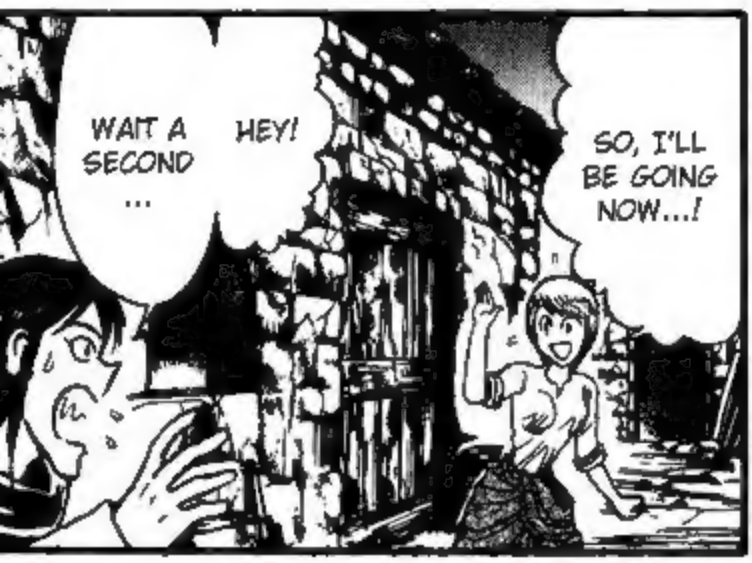
MM-HM.
.....
THE MARK ON MY SHOULDER...?
...DID YOU SEE...

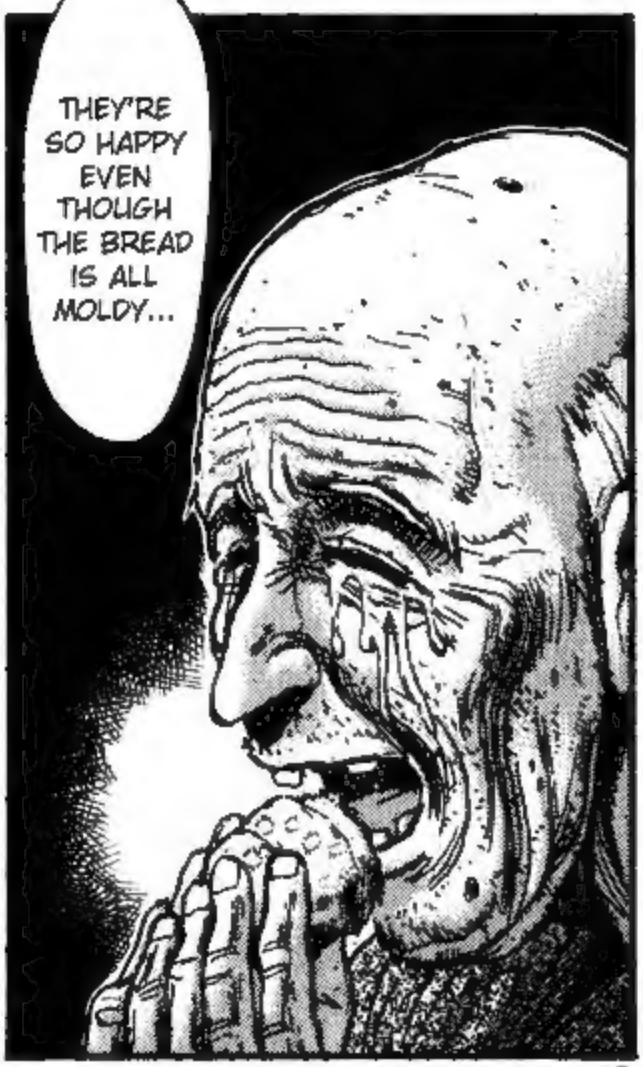
3

HUH?!
OH NO ...!
GRRROWL
WHY DID YOU STEAL—
THAT I'M... A SINNER.
SO YOU'VE FOUND OUT...
... AHA ...

EEP!
THANK YOU FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME, BUT THIS IS VERY EMBARRASSING...!
THAT'S PRETTY WORRYING !!
Y-YOU'RE THAT HUNGRY ?!
I... I WAS SHARING IT...
B-BUT, WHEN YOU WENT OUT EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU HAVE THE BREAD WITH YOU?
YOU IDIOT!! WHY WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR OWN FOOD AWAY TO OTHER PEOPLE?!
YOU ...
4
HM...
WE'RE GOING TO GO GET ALL THAT BREAD BACK.
UM... WHERE TO?
COME ON!!
だっ

SO DON'T TALK ANYMORE ABOUT TAKING IT BACK.
I'M FINE NOT EATING TODAY.
YOU SEE?


WAIT A SECOND ...
HEY!
SO, I'LL BE GOING NOW...!


THEY'RE SO HAPPY EVEN THOUGH THE BREAD IS ALL MOLDY...

5

UH, I'M AN ACQUAIN-TANCE...
OH? WHO ARE YOU?

"LADY" ...?
WHO'S THERE?
AH, LADY FRAN-CINE...

SHE IS... AN ANGEL.
.....
YOU CALL HER "LADY"? WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT GIRL...?
AH, I SEE. YOU'RE WITH LADY FRANCINE...
SHE ESCAPED FROM THE HANDS OF THE SLAVERS AND SETTLED DOWN HERE TO LOOK AFTER CHILDREN WITH NO FAMILIES...
THEY SAY THAT LADY FRANCINE WAS BOUGHT IN FRANCE BY TRAFFICKERS AND CAME HERE TO PRAGUE AS A SLAVE.
AN ANGEL?
LAST YEAR, ONE OF THE CHILDREN IN LADY FRANCINE'S CARE FELL ILL WITH SEVERE PNEUMONIA.
H-HEY, LADY ...
SHE DOES MANY SMALL JOBS...
AND GIVES ALL THE MONEY TO THE REST OF US POOR CREATURES WITHOUT A HINT OF REGRET.
6
BECAUSE THEY HAD NO MONEY, THE DOCTORS WOULD NOT SEE HIM. HE WAS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
NO, THAT... WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF THE OFFICIALS' CRUELTY ...
ポ ポ ポ
DOES THAT INCLUDE THEFT ...?

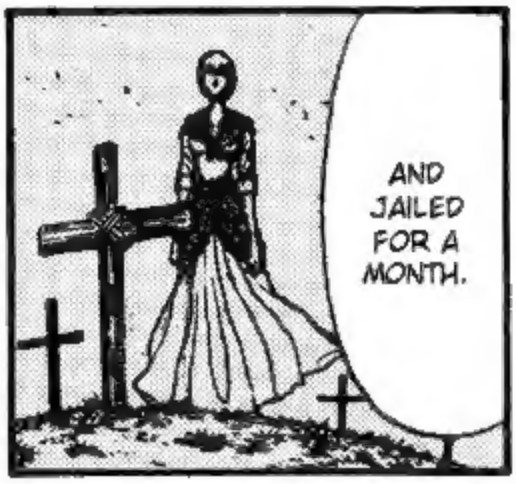
I'M SO SORRY!
I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY!
THERE WAS NO WAY LEFT TO EARN THE MONEY ...
SHE HAD SOLD HER HAIR JUST RECENTLY, AND SO ...
LADY FRAN-CINE...
AND SO LADY FRAN-CINE...
A SINGLE EGG...
SHE STOLE ...
7
THE EGG NEVER REACHED THAT CHILD...
BUT ...
TO GET SOME NUTRITION INTO HIS WEAKENED BODY...
AN ORPHAN WITH NO BLOOD TIES TO HER.
FOR THAT CHILD ...

SHE WAS BRAND-ED...

THE CHILD DIED ...

FOR A FEW PIECES OF GOLD, ANOTHER PERSON IN NEED BETRAYED HER.

JUST ONE EGG ...
SHE HAD STOLEN ...


AND JAILED FOR A MONTH.

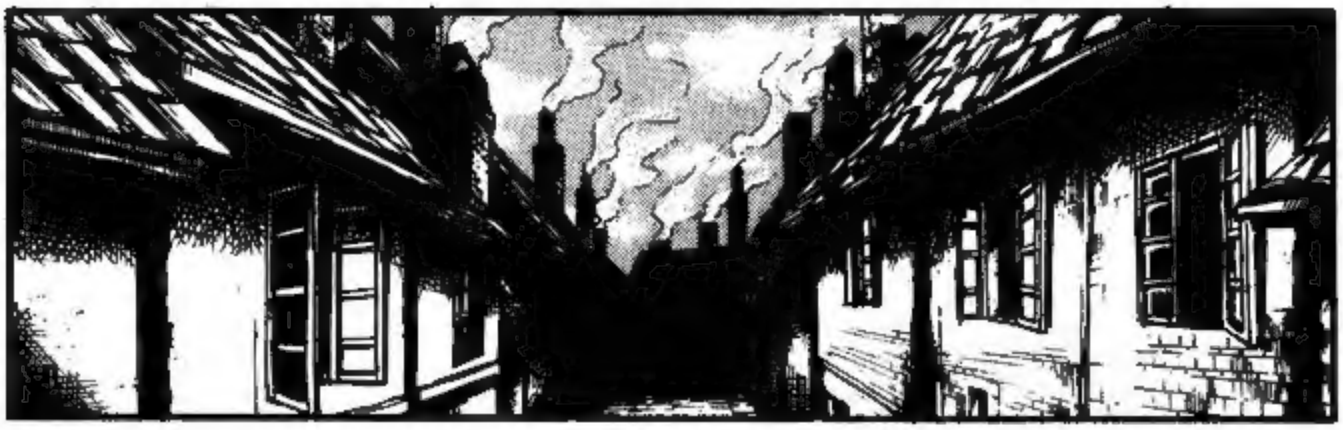
PLEASE, BRING HER HAPPINESS.

AH... NO, I...
YOU ARE LADY FRANCINE'S LOVER, ARE YOU NOT?

SHE SHOWS US A HINT OF HOPE...
WE LIVE IN A CRUEL, CRUEL WORLD... BUT IN THE MIDST OF THIS HELL...
...

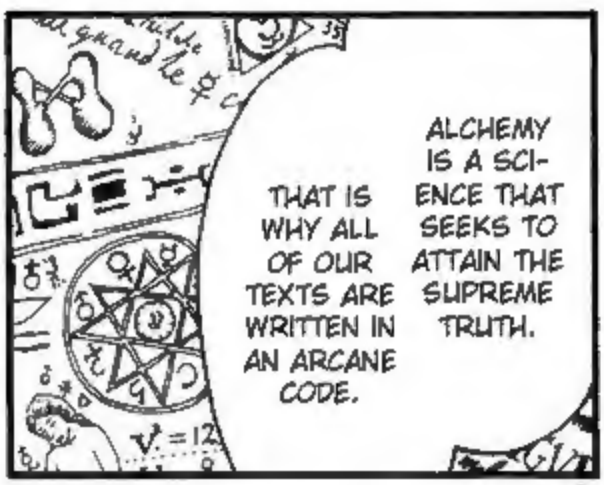
THAT HEAVEN MIGHT REALLY EXIST...

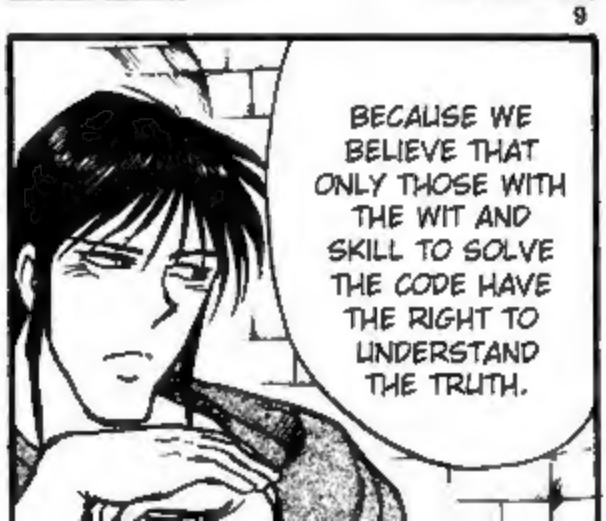
THAT GIRL IS...
OUR ANGEL.



YIN, IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO LISTEN TO ME, YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE.
TRUTH IS NOT FOR THE SLOTHFUL.

YIN!
AND THEREFORE... YIN.
UH... YES!
BROTHER!


ALCHEMY IS A SCIENCE THAT SEEKS TO ATTAIN THE SUPREME TRUTH.
THAT IS WHY ALL OF OUR TEXTS ARE WRITTEN IN AN ARCANE CODE.


BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ONLY THOSE WITH THE WIT AND SKILL TO SOLVE THE CODE HAVE THE RIGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH.

...MASTER! PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ASK A QUESTION...
BRO-THER... YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE.
EX-CUSE ME...
I'M SORRY.
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ALCHEMY COULD DO TO HELP PEOPLE?
WITH ALL THIS KNOWLEDGE WE HAVE OF MEDICINE AND CHEMISTRY ...
WHAT IS IT?
10
IS...
IS THAT SO...
THAT KNOWLEDGE IS THERE FOR US AND US ALONE.
THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING ALCHEMY IS TO ATTAIN THE TRUTH FOR ONE'S OWN SELF.
BRO-THER!
FOR AN AL-CHEMIST TO RUN ABOUT PRACTICING MEDICINE IS TANTAMOUNT TO HERESY.
...OUR FOREBEAR PARACEL-SUS ASKED MUCH THE SAME THING. HMPH... IF YOU ASK ME...

JIN?
BRO-
THER...
WHAT OUR MASTER SAID WAS RIGHT.
WE CAN'T THINK ABOUT OTHER— AH!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE CONCEN-TRATING ON YOUR STUDIES.
JIN, OUR FIRST WISH WAS TO MAKE OUR DOLLS DANCE LIKE PEOPLE, WASN'T IT?
I'M THINKING OF GOING BACK TO OUR ORIGINAL GOAL...
A HUGE... MARION-ETTE?
WAH! WHAT'S THAT?
11
FOR OURSELVES ...
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S WHY WE'RE STUDYING ALCHEMY NOW. TO RESEARCH A WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT.

ALL OF IT ...
FOR OUR-SELVES ...
WHAT?
TO IMPROVE THE PUPPET TECHNIQUES OF THE BAI CLAN... TO ATTAIN THE SUPREME TRUTH...
JIN ...
IF IT'S A PATH THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL FOLLOW ...
WHAT IS THE POINT OF ILLUMI-NATING IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BRO-THER?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND ...
THAT'S... THAT'S NATURAL ISN'T IT...?
UNTIL NOW, I BELIEVED THAT MY OWN PATH WAS THE RIGHT ONE.
THAT I SHOULD STICK TO THAT PATH, AND THAT NO ONE ELSE'S PATH HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME.

BRO-THER ...

THAT "SOME-THING" WASN'T ANY-THING TO DO WITH FRAN-CINE ...?

I STARTED TO THINK THAT... AFTER SOMETHING HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY...

THAT NIGHT WHEN I WAS DRUNK... WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED?

WAIT A MINUTE ...

BRO-THER ...

.....

BRO-THER ...?

RIGHT ...?

ARE YOU JUST GOING TO BUTT IN AND STEAL HER...? THAT'S NOT FAIR...

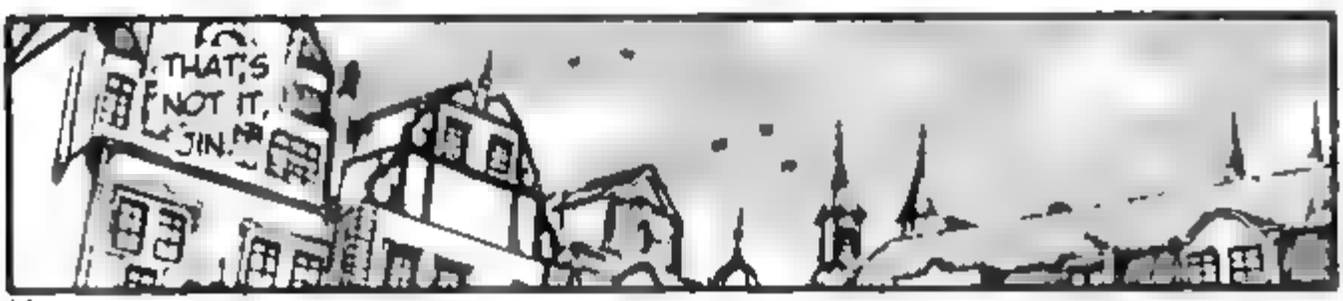
...JIN, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.

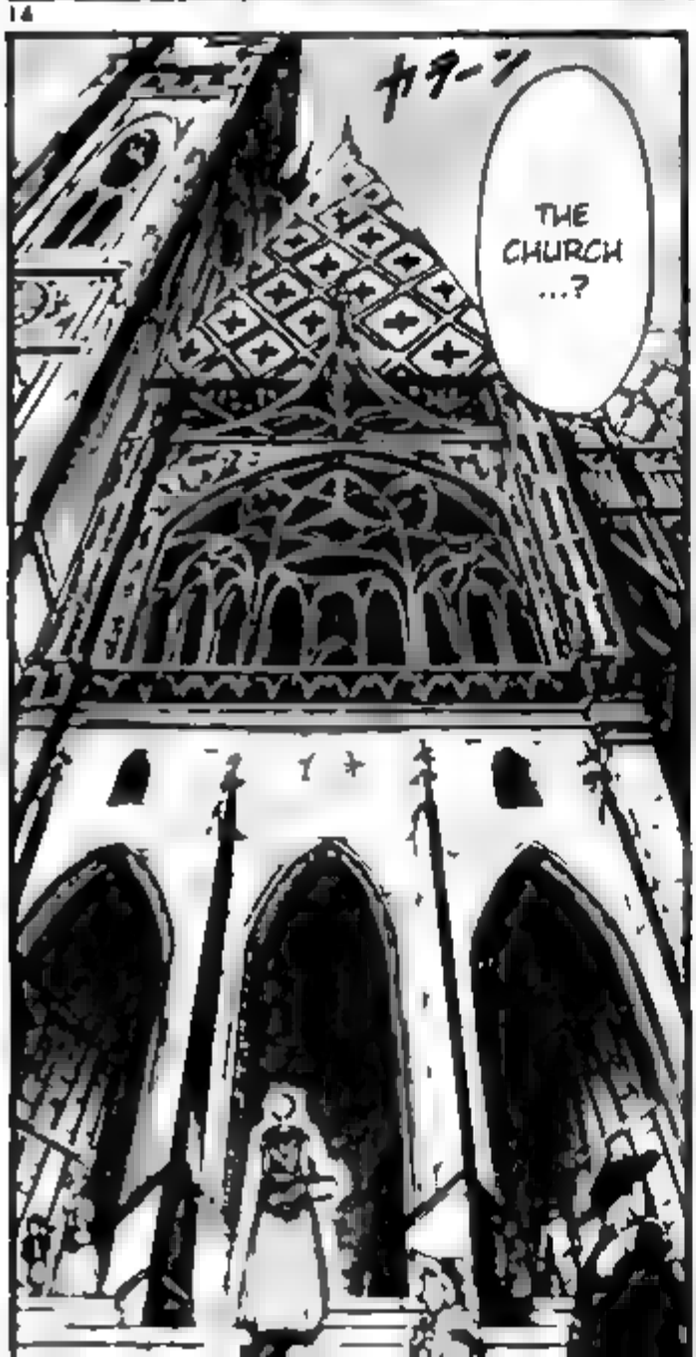
NO-THING!

I WAS THE ONE WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH FRANCINE FIRST...

BUT... BRO-THER...

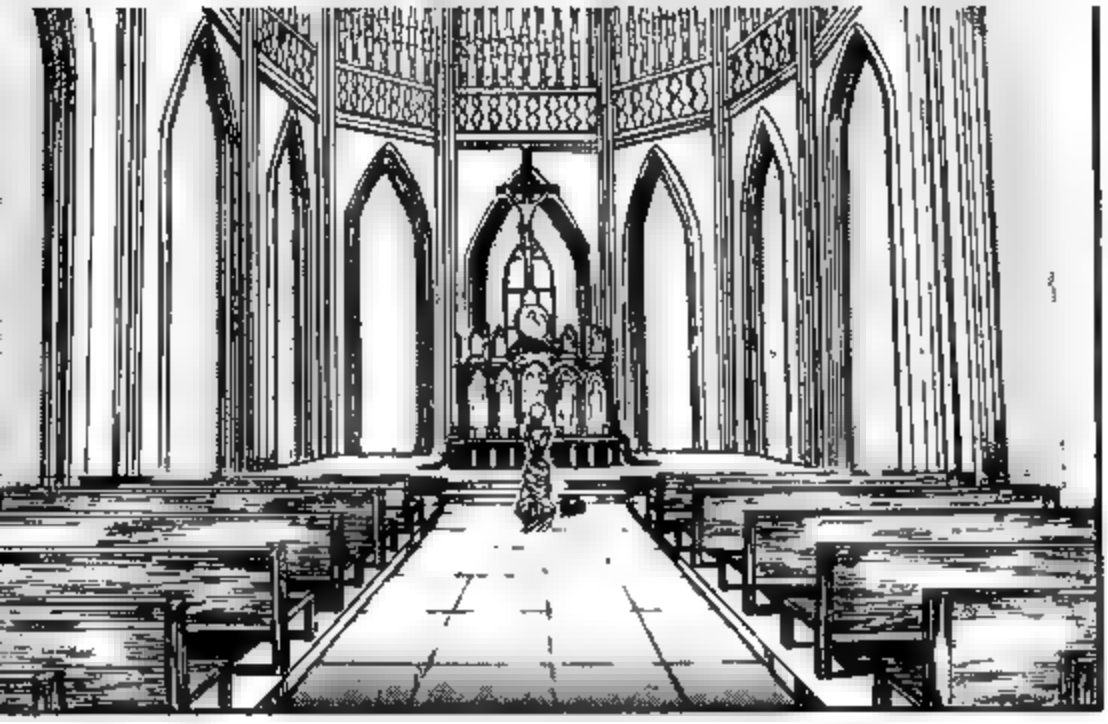
BRO-
THER
!!


THAT'S
NOT IT,
JIN.

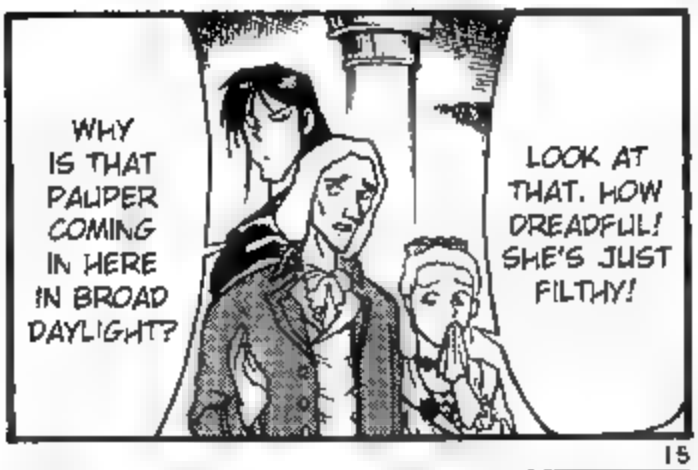

THE
CHURCH
...?

WELL, NO
HELPING IT
FOR NOW.
I'LL TRY
TO CLEAR
UP THE
MISUNDER-
STANDING
LATER.
EVEN
THOUGH
WE ALWAYS
GOT ALONG
SO WELL
BEFORE
..
I HAVEN'T
HEARD
A WORD
OUT OF
JIN SINCE
THEN...

!
THAT'S
FRAN-
CINE.



SHE MUST HAVE COME FOR A HANDOUT FROM THE CHURCH.
THEY SAY THE POOR ARE LACKING SPIRITUALLY AS WELL... SURELY SHE CAN'T BE SEEKING SALVATION FROM THE LORD?


WHY IS THAT PAUPER COMING IN HERE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?
LOOK AT THAT. HOW DREADFUL! SHE'S JUST FILTHY!

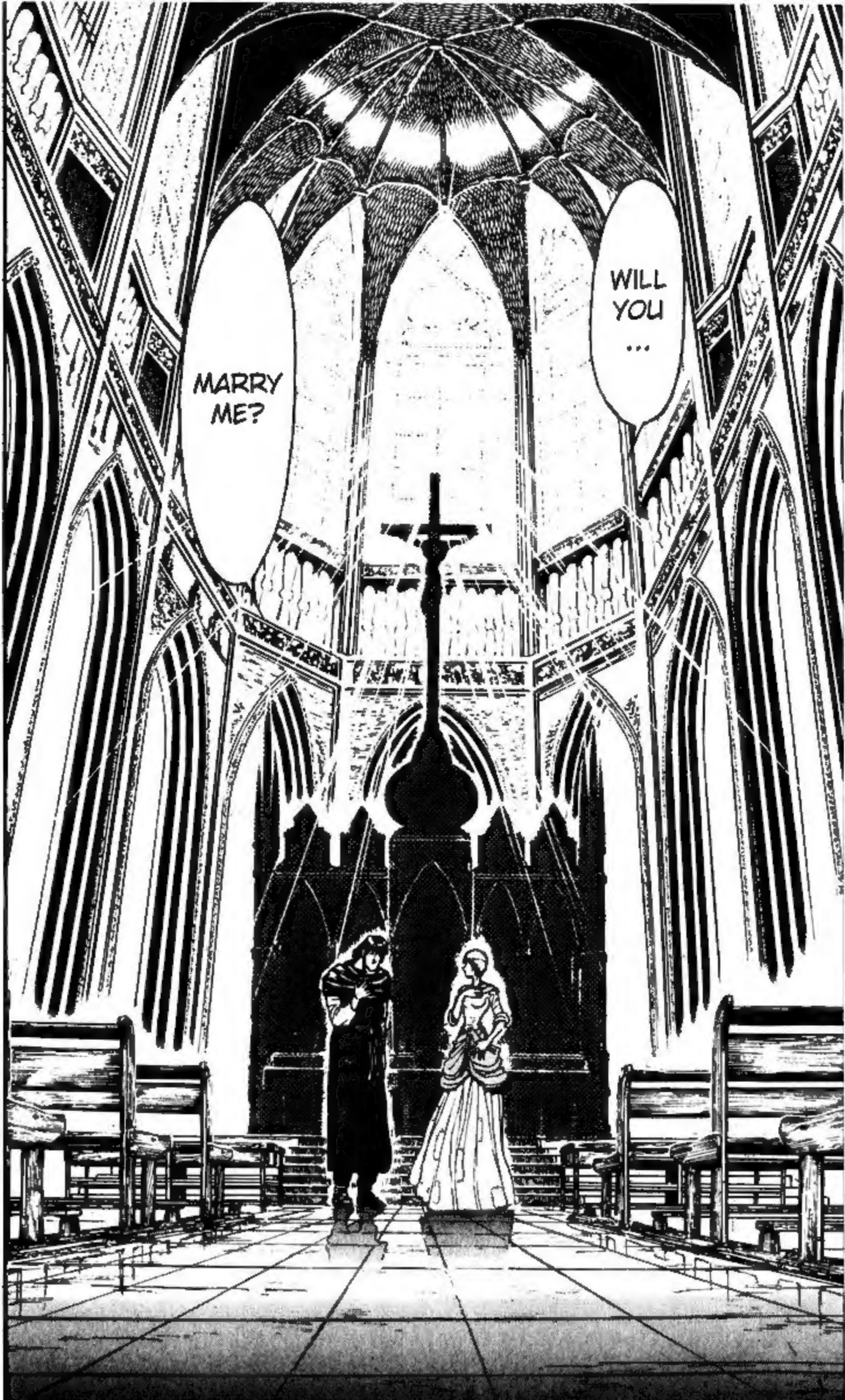
THIS GIRL IS AN ANGEL ...
AN ANGEL ...
WHAT ... WERE YOU PRAYING FOR?
OH... MASTER YIN.
THANK YOU FOR THE OTHER DAY.

16

TO DISAPPEAR FROM THIS WORLD.
FOR ALL DISEASES ...
HOW EMBAR-RASSING ...
HEE HEE ...

HER EYES ARE FIXED ON OTHER PEOPLE.
HER OWN CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SO MISERABLE, BUT EVEN SO...
AND GENEROUS HEART.
WHAT A DEEPLY KIND...!

FOR THIS GIRL IS...
F... FRANCINE...
WHAT I FEEL ...
AHAHA... YOU ALWAYS LOOK A LITTLE GRIM, BUT YOUR FACE IS EVEN SCARIER THAN USUAL.
WHAT'S WRONG, MASTER YIN?


WILL YOU ...
MARRY ME?

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

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Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.